

CITY OF MOAB
WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2020

The Water Conservation and Drought Management Advisory Board held its regular meeting on July 8, 2020. Per Executive Order 2020-5 issued by Governor Gary R. Herbert on March 18, 2020, this meeting was conducted electronically. An anchor location was not provided. An audio recording of the meeting is archived at <http://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>. A video recording is archived at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyGQBn6QEFE>.

Regular Meeting—Call to Order and Attendance:

Water Board Chair Kara Dohrenwend called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm. Participating remotely were Water Board Members Arne Hultquist, John Gould, and Jeremy Lynch. Water Board Member Mike Duncan joined the meeting at 2:40 PM. Water Board Members Denver Perkins and Kyle Bailey were absent. City staff in attendance were Assistant Engineer Mark Jolissaint and Recorder Sommar Johnson. Public Works Director Levi Jones joined the meeting at 2:31 PM. Assistant City Manager Carly Castle joined the meeting at 3:29 PM.

Approval of Minutes: June 10, 2020 – Postponed

Discussion: Board Members said the minutes had not been reviewed because they were not received. Board Chair Dohrenwend suggested postponing approval of the minutes until the next meeting. City Recorder Johnson reviewed accessing the minutes for approval in the meeting packet on the City website.

Board and Staff Reports

Board Member Hultquist said there will be a MAWPS meeting at the Old Spanish Trail Arena on the 15th with presentations on water banking and groundwater monitoring. He reported receiving emails regarding Lionsback and groundwater protection. He reported sending the groundwater protection plan for the Lionsback development to City Engineer Williams and Assistant City Manager Castle.

Water Conservation Plan Update: Discussion of Conservation and Resource Strategies to be Developed and Board Assignments

Board Chair Dohrenwend said the last meeting included discussion about the water conservation plan and which parts are City staff's responsibility. She said there are water conservation plan items that the Water Board and City staff would need to discuss, as well as items that the Water Board would complete.

Board Member Gould expressed concern about the unknown amount of water that Moab has. Board Chair Dohrenwend said it could be added to the water conservation plan.

Assistant Engineer Jolissaint said there will be research regarding the amount of water use per year. Board Chair Dohrenwend requested information about the number of water connections and current use by type. She also requested research about impacts of visitor population on water use. Assistant Engineer Jolissaint explained water is counted at the source and when people are billed for water use. He said the water types are currently labeled as residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional.

Board Member Hultquist requested to assist on the environmental concerns portion of the report.

Board Chair Dohrenwend inquired if environmental concerns and the distribution system could be discussed at the September or October meeting. Assistant Engineer Jolissaint said the October meeting would be best. She requested input from the public works department in the fall, as well. Public Works Director Jones said late fall would work. Board Member Hultquist suggested using the water numbers from 2019 for the report. Board Chair Dohrenwend and Board Member Duncan agreed.

Board Vice Chair Lynch proposed reviewing and adding information to headings and subheadings.

Board Member Hultquist expressed concern about the 17% reduction in water use per capita. He said there were already huge reductions in 2017-2018. Board Chair Dohrenwend requested Board Member Hultquist bring the research from the previous years' reduction to the next meeting. Board Member Hultquist agreed to draft the section for the state imposed numerical goals.

Board Member Duncan inquired if trees should be included in the off-Main Street parking design, since they will require watering. Board Chair Dohrenwend said certain trees need less water, and the storm water could be redirected to the trees. She said it could be included in the green infrastructure portion of the local goals section.

Board Member Duncan reported that the lower dam is leaking more than it used to, which reduces the amount of water for users. Board Member Hultquist inquired about changing the distribution system. He suggested including a pressurized system for Moab Irrigation Company to provide the secondary watering system. He proposed adding sustaining and improving delivery to the water conservation plan.

Board Member Hultquist inquired about adding suggested watering times in the evening/early morning. Public Works Director Jones recommended 11 PM-4 AM for irrigation. Board Chair Dohrenwend said the recommendation would be added to the water conservation plan in a couple places. She proposed adding education about how much water is required for different vegetation.

Public Works Director Jones said the inoperable swamp coolers, running toilets, and drippy water faucets do not aid in conserving water. Board Chair Dohrenwend said personal infrastructure would be added to the plan. Board Member Hultquist requested adding the existing leak detection and repair systems to the plan. Board Chair Dohrenwend requested that Public Works Director Jones and City Treasurer Mason outline existing leak programs.

Board Member Hultquist inquired if the City has a plan for long-term drought mitigation. Board Chair Dohrenwend added it under ordinances and rules to work on. Board Member Hultquist also suggested public education regarding how to irrigate landscape. He said public outreach could be improved/increased. Public Works Director Jones said social media is a great way to improve public outreach. Board Chair Dohrenwend said social media, videos, and regular posting will be added to the plan.

Board Member Duncan said the increase in water rates might help improve water conservation efforts. Board Member Hultquist said it should be included in the plan.

Board Chair Dohrenwend said education about xeriscape will be added to the plan.

Board Vice Chair Lynch said he will review the current storm water management plan. Board Chair Dohrenwend requested the information be reported at the next meeting or by September.

Board Chair Dohrenwend asked about consolidating outreach and education with conservation outreach and putting it under conservation measures to implement. Board Member Hultquist agreed. He suggested focusing on section two (current efforts) first because then section three (goals of conservation) will flow better. Board Chair Dohrenwend said the storm water management plan review will be in section two, and any revisions to it will be in section three.

Board Chair Dohrenwend reviewed the progress from this meeting for Assistant City Manager Castle. Assistant City Manager Castle reported that Assistant Engineer Jolissaint and the engineering department will compile water use trends and demand management.

City Recorder Johnson requested an emailed copy of the water conservation plan updated outline.

Adjournment: Board Chair Dohrenwend adjourned the meeting at 3:37 PM.